

Juan Villalobos at Alamo Community College District Healthcare Professions Training Initiative

In a very challenging economy, Juan Villalobos, an unemployed single parent with two children, was desperately seeking employment through one of San Antonio's Workforce Solutions Centers. With a flyer and a case manager's referral, he caught word of a great career training opportunity through the Alamo Colleges' Healthcare Professions Training Initiative (HPTI), one of 32 Health Profession Opportunity Grants (HPOG) funded by the Administration for Children and Families' Office of Family Assistance.

Following a quick call, he was set to meet with this region's HPTI intake specialist, Arlene Esparza, at the Alamo Colleges Westside Training and Education Center. As the lead career development specialist, Arlene questioned Juan about his interests, needs, and ability to make his way into the Environmental Services (EVS) program. He was motivated and had already begun to improve his skills through the completion of English as a Second Language (ESL) courses. Having met the eligibility requirements, two weeks later Juan found himself sitting in his first day of class.

Juan was a model student, and he became part of a classroom group which was a strong and supportive team. While participating in the EVS program classroom training, he obtained a perfect attendance record. When this segment of the program was done, he went on to complete his time-limited employment training at the University Healthcare System, where he again earned a perfect attendance record. During his employment training, Juan gained a reputation for reliability and competence. When he completed this final part of his training, Juan was told by one of his mentors that the hospital would like to have him as an employee and was advised to apply for an upcoming opening in EVS.

Following Juan's completion of his time-limited job training, he and Arlene met weekly to perform job searches, complete employment forms, practice interview skills, and ultimately work towards his next goal of employment. He was persistent and thorough, always following up with the places where he applied and adhering to the guidance of his case manager. He remained positive despite a few weeks of tedious job searching and closed doors.

Finally an opportunity arose at the University Healthcare hospital, and he got that chance for an interview. At that interview, Juan learned that he had to provide additional information to satisfy the background needs of this employer, but he worked to complete these requirements as well. A few more anxious days went by, and finally the news arrived: he was going to get a work offer to join the EVS team at this great employer. Juan was overwhelmed with joy. He had made his goal. Juan immediately notified the HPTI team office, even before he mentioned it to his family. For him this was a personal victory, in addition to a relief, since he was now able to plan for a better future for his family.

A few weeks after starting his job, Juan returned to the HPTI office with a cake. He told the team that he wanted to bring them a token of his gratitude. It was a rewarding day for all.

**Stanley at Alamo Community College
District's Healthcare Professions
Training Initiative**

Stanley Redus was recruited from the Haven for Hope, which is one of San Antonio's homeless shelters. He had encountered some life difficulties, a little later in life, which had left him homeless and with no other option but to resort to temporary assistance at the shelter. Alamo Colleges had been sharing the HPOG training program opportunities with residents and managers throughout the year during on-site information sessions and through the posting of flyers. While assisting with services at the shelter one day, Stanley got hold of one of those flyers, one about the upcoming Material Management and Central Supply training program.

Although he did not attend any of the information sessions or encounter a representative at the shelter, he became interested in this training and wanted to know more. Stanley called the Workforce Center and was directed to the Alamo Colleges HPOG intake specialist located at the Westside Education and Training Center. His call was within days of the start to this session, and through responsive support, he got enrolled.

Once training started, Stanley became a model student. He had perfect attendance, scored well on all of his testing, and carried a positive attitude. He was able to maintain his perfect attendance at the job site, University Healthcare Systems (UHS), during the full period of his time limited employment training. Equally impressive, he was able to prove to this employer that he had obtained the needed skills and abilities to join the employer's team immediately.

Stanley so impressed this employer, that he was extended an offer for employment in advance of his training completion, a little over two weeks into his four-week job training period. He was hired on June 25, 2012, at UHS, working with the materials management team at a starting salary of \$12.30 per hour, exceeding the San Antonio region's starting pay projections for this occupation area.

Stan's story is very motivating, is a testament to the HPOG program and opportunities that it offers to individuals just like Stanley. His success is often cited as an example for those considering enrollment in the program.